controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Sri Ganganagar and Uaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bilateral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping in view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border meetings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries.

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radio Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

**Revision of price of dried coconut**

2080. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revise the support price of dried coconut fixed in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Government has already fixed the minimum support price of milling copra at Rs. 2150 per qutl. and that of ball at at Rs. 2350 per quintal for 1993 seasons.

**Harmful effets of pesticide**

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia South Pacific, Islands, Costa Rica, Brazil Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashed pestiide use and are harvesting greate yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose t advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and increase prooduction, as the use of pesticide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and th reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of Integrated Pest Management approach ha enabled the farmers to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides in many countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise th use of chemical pesticides the Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management technology wherein it is advocated that chemiccal pesticides should be used as a last resert on the basis o economic threshold level of pests.

**Policy on agricultural mechanisation**

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to draft a policy o agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that merely three percent of the American population i.e. about seven million people are engaged in agriculture as compard to about 500 million in India;